

***IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE***

APPLICATION NO. ....10/726,994  
FILING DATE ..... 3 Dec. 2003  
INVENTORS ..... Kedar R. Belhe  
ASSIGNEE ..... St. Jude Medical  
EXAMINER ..... Julian W. Woo  
ART UNIT ..... 3731  
ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO. ....47563.0015  
TITLE ..... "Suture Based Vascular Closure Apparatus and Method Incorporating a Pre-Tied Knot"

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

To: Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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This communication is intended to be fully responsive to the Office Action dated 18 October 2006, concerning the above-identified patent application.

**Listing of the Claims** begins on page 2 of this document.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 10 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows. Applicants have used the convention underline to indicate added text and ~~strike through~~ to indicate deleted text.